

Diocesan Social Justice Committee
March 8, 2018
Minutes

Present were: Ranni Dillard, Nola Courtney, Ed Huff, and Richard Murphy.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

The Minutes from the 1-11-18 meeting were accepted as published.

Old Business

1. Social Concerns Diocesan Survey Conducted in 2018; Please send notes on your Committee.

Our routine Social Concerns Diocesan Survey has begun. We conduct the survey every second or third year. Members of the Committee are requested to share info about their Parish Committees via email to include in the survey by 5-1-18. Information needed is: Parish name, Pastor's name, yes, you do have a Committee, and briefly explain some of the mail services provided by the Committee.

2. Mandeville Sister Diocese Comte Ash Wednesday Collection 2-14-18: Outcome?

The Mandeville Sr. Diocese Committee Ash Wednesday collection was taken up on 2-14-18. Many committee members reported that the collection was taken up in the parish. Turnout on that day was very good, and it is believed that the collection will be a healthy amount.

Richard discussed the pending container collection that will soon be underway and hopefully done by either the end of September or the first part of October 2018. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.

3. Lenten CRS Rice Bowl Collection

With the beginning of Lent, the annual CRS Rice Bowl collection has begun. Committee members reported receiving the necessary information for the Rice bowl collection, and also reported that some of the material was not used. Richard discussed the Lenten Rice bowl resources, and at least one committee member reported using them. Another potential program that may be considered for a parish use is the CRS ethical trade products. Committee members were familiar with these at least one person had participated. Richard encouraged others to consider being part of this effort.

Martha Maria Morlas is the new regional representative from CRS for the state of Kentucky. From time to time she may be available for presentations in committee member's parish.

4. Parish Social Ministry Reports and Needs

a. **St. Stephen Parish, Cadiz:** Nola Courtney shared info on her Parish's efforts. They have been working with 2 projects recently. The first is "Laundry Love" program. This program provides supplies, resources and meets the client at the Laundry Mat. The volunteers can offer help in the learning process with the client. The second program is an After School program. The Parish works with the local Woman's Guild to provide after school snacks at the local schools. Their Parish is responsible for April and May. They are also involved with the local food bank. Their committee is known as the stewardship committee.

b. **St. Stephen Cathedral Parish:** Richard presented on behalf of the Committee Chair, Joe Abel. The Committee conducts weekly collections for agency needs there serving the poor in the Daviess County area. They are currently working with Help Office, Crossroads-an emergency shelter for women, Adrienne's House- another emergency shelter for women, The International Center that works with refugees, The St. Stephen Cathedral Soup Kitchen, and the Parish Backpack Ministry Program. The committee discussed support of the St. Benedict Joseph Homeless Shelter, reviewed immigrant services in the area, and discussed the seven key themes of Catholic social teaching.

c. **Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson:** Ranni Dillard discussed several projects with which the Parish is involved. The Committee is working

with the Light is on for You program on promoting racial justice in the area. A series of speakers are addressing various aspects of racial justice. They are also offering a Lenten Giving Tree for the second year. Nonprofit agencies are allowed to share their needs and people take a tag, get the item and go to see the Nonprofit.

They plan to offer a Creation Care Day on 4-21-18. And a community service day on 5-12-18. A domestic mission effort will be offered this year to the Appalachian Mountains. The Ministry takes part in the Community Feeding Program one night for week. There are 5 different churches involved.

Ed Huff indicated that the group has agreed to call themselves a ministry rather than a committee.

5. Legislative Advocacy Issues-Federal/State: Catholics @ Capitol 2-13-18

Richard shared that the Catholics at the Capital meeting this year occurred in Frankfort Kentucky because the legislators have a 60 day session this year. (In 2019, the event will take place in the diocese because the legislators have only a 30 day session that year.)

This year a group from the diocese saw Representative DJ Johnson from the from the 13th district, Rep. Matt Castlen from the 14th District, Rep Melinda Prunty from the 15th district, Representative Suzanne Miles from the seventh district, and Sen. Stephen Meredith from the fifth district and left notes that the offices of Sen. Joe Bowen from the eighth district and Sen. CB Embry from the six district. Discussed with the legislators were Senate Bill 36 and its companion House Bill 134 on the scholarship tax credit program, Senate Bill 107 to preclude the use of the death penalty for individuals with severe mental illness, and other matters.

New Business

1. Issues Committee Members May Wish to Raise

Ed Huff discussed and ecumenical interfaith service that has begun in the Henderson area that includes a 25 minute talk and Lenten with bread and

soup. It is been well received and is supported by the Henderson ministerial Association.

2. CCHD Grant Opportunities: Due 5-20-18

Richard reminded committee members of the CCHD Grant program with assistance available for persons or groups working with persons with human need. The deadline to apply is set for 5 – 20 – 18.

3. Staff Report and Sharing of Resources

Richard reminded the group of the Dreamer Call in Day and encourage committee members to call their congressman to lobby for legislative action for Dreamers.

Richard also described a method for communicating in the meetings that involved video communication with the option of audio communication if a person doesn't have a computer with the camera. The committee agreed to try this option at our next meeting.

The committee That recommended rolling back the starting time for meetings from 5:15 to 6:00 PM beginning with the next fiscal year beginning in September 2018.

Next Meeting for FY 2017-18 Meeting Dates: 5-10-18 at the MCC at 5:15 PM